

Executive Summary

2014 Annual OIB Report, 7-OB

The federal government's Title VII Chapter 2 describes the Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB) program. The federal government, through the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), provides grants to support services for individuals age 55 or older whose severe visual impairment makes competitive employment difficult to obtain but for whom independent living goals are feasible. The OIB funds independent living skills training services, conducts activities that will improve or expand services, and conducts activities to improve public understanding of the problems facing older severely visually impaired persons.

The 7-OB report is the federally required annual summary that the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) sends to the RSA at the end of each federal fiscal year. It includes the funding expenditures, data about the staffing of the service provider agencies, the numbers and statistics concerning the persons served, the quantities and varieties of services provided, and some first-hand narratives from many of the service providers. The data for this report is compiled from the monthly and quarterly reports sent to the DOR OIB unit from the service providers. The DOR OIB unit submitted this 2014 report prior to December 30, 2014, meeting the RSA submittal date.

Some key facts relevant to this report are as follows:

- California had 16 service providers (sub-grantees) in 2014
- The providers have multiple service locations and serve citizens from San Diego to Eureka
- The providers served 6,553 persons with severe visual impairments aged 55 or older
- This number of persons served continues its gradual annual increase over the last six years
- Of these 6,553, 31.2% were minorities (non-white)
- OIB funded approximately \$3.2 million in expenditures

Some positive highlights of the report are as follows:

- The total of unduplicated persons served increased in 2014 by 5% to 6553
- The providers participated in 550 community awareness events
- There is a healthy dispersion of consumers in the degree of visual impairment, with 50.3% of the consumers served being totally or legally blind while 49.7% have severe visual impairments.
- Approximately 18,000 unduplicated core services were given to the 6553 consumers for an average of about three core services per consumer
- Of the consumers who responded to surveys about changes in control and confidence in life after OIB services, 93% reported being in greater control and are more confident in their ability to maintain their current living situation as a result of services they received